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## FOREWORD

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The history of the evolution of braille has been long and, at times, difficult. No recount will be made here of the various developments the system has passed through during the years. The present volume adds one more significant revision in the attempt to bring about new and increased advantages of readability in the touch method of communication for the blind.

Quite appropriately, this work is being published in a year of some importance in the field of work for the blind. 1959 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of the celebrated young Frenchman, Louis Braille, for whom the present system of embossed writing was named. It also was just one hundred and thirty years ago, in 1829, that the governors of the Institution Royale des Jeunes Aveugles de Paris arranged for the publication of the first official description of the system under the title of "*Method of Writing Words, Music and Plainsong by Means of Dots, for Use of the Blind.*"

This work has resulted from nine years of study by the Joint Uniform Braille Committee and the AAIB-AAWB Braille Authority. Many meetings, including a conference in London in 1956 with the British National Uniform Type Committee, and a number of draft revisions, finally brought about this completed manual. A distinct variance in preferred language usage here in America and in the United Kingdom dictated that braille readers on both sides of the Atlantic could best be served with separate, though basically similar, codes designed to apply to the English language as practiced in each country. Readers in either country, however, should experience no difficulty in enjoying the braille books published in both countries.

By official resolutions of the AAIB and AAWB in convention in Vancouver and Philadelphia in 1958, "*English Braille—American Edition, 1959,*" becomes the authorized braille code for use in the United States, as of January 1, 1959.

### JOINT UNIFORM BRAILLE COMMITTEE, 1950-1958

Alfred Allen  
Robert W. Beath  
Francis J. Cummings, Ph.D.  
Marjorie S. Hooper

Florence Horton  
Bernard M. Krebs  
Paul J. Langan  
L. W. Rodenberg

## FOREWORD TO THE 1962 REVISION

With the completion and adoption in 1958 of "*English Braille—American Edition—1959*," it was recognized that the hoped for efficiency of the new basic literary braille code could only be demonstrated by experience, in spite of the long years of study which had gone into its development. This 1962 revision, therefore, is the result of three-and-a-half years of use of the 1959 code. No changes have been made in the code itself. Rather, the revision consists primarily of demonstrated necessary additional clarifications and interpretations of the rules of usage. Only three new signs have been added—all of them needed for the embossing of textbook or technical materials, i.e., a sign for the ditto mark, plus two additional signs required for the representation of pronunciation for use in glossaries, dictionaries, etc. Also included is a clarification of the way to write a combination of Greek letters which may appear in regular English context. Hopefully, these clarifications and additions will meet the needs of brailleists for many years to come.

The adopting resolutions of the AAIB and AAWB in 1958 included the creation of an authority to succeed the Joint Uniform Braille Committee. The three members of the AAIB-AAWB Braille Authority are appointed jointly by the presidents of the two Associations. In addition to complete responsibility for the expansion, clarification, and interpretation of the basic literary braille code for use in the United States, it is the duty of the Braille Authority to provide for the development and/or clarification and interpretation of technical braille codes for music, mathematical and scientific notations, textbook techniques and format, etc. To accomplish these goals, the Braille Authority draws upon the aid and guidance of recognized authorities in their respective fields. In addition, provision has been made by the Authority for adequate pre-testing of proposed new codes and usages before recommending them for adoption. Final official adoption of all codes, however, including rules of usage, lies with the two professional associations of work for the blind, the American Association of Instructors of the Blind and the American Association of Workers for the Blind.

### AAIB-AAWB BRAILLE AUTHORITY

Maxine B. Dorf (1959- )  
Marjorie S. Hooper (1959- )  
Bernard M. Krebs (1959- )  
Paul J. Langan (1959-1959)

## FOREWORD TO THE 1968 REVISION

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The expansion and clarification of the rules of the literary braille code adopted by the conventions of AAWB and AEVH in 1968, are the outgrowth of the rapport between braille publishers and transcribers and the Braille Authority. The flow of inquiries on rule interpretations from workers in the field have pointed up areas in the code which required amplification and definition. All questions and suggestions have been analyzed for their broader implications, and only those principles have been instituted which are deemed to enhance reading ease and efficiency.

In addition to a few instances of rewording for clarification, the following rules have been expanded and updated:

1. Section 22. The entire rule on footnotes has been revised to conform to the methods used in textbook transcriptions which has proven so effective.
2. Section 34.d. In addition to entry words found in the dictionary, contractions should be used in common terms for a particular subject, such as botany, medicine, music, etc., when they are listed in the glossary of the book or when they are explained in the text where they are originally introduced. Contractions should also be used in coined words in science fiction.
3. Section 34.e. Part-word contractions should be used rather liberally in dialect.

To insure that the literary code and all other braille codes in the technical fields are maintained at a current high standard of efficiency, the Braille Authority and its Advisory Committees attempt to keep abreast of new innovations of characters and formats being used in ink-print publications, as well as of problems encountered by both brailleists and readers. By doing so, the braille codes continue to be living, vital tools in the dissemination of education and recreation for blind people.

### AAWB-AEVH BRAILLE AUTHORITY

Maxine B. Dorf (1959- )  
Freda Henderson (1967- )  
Marjorie S. Hooper (1959- )  
Bernard M. Krebs (1959- )  
Alice M. Mann (1967- )

## FOREWORD TO THE 1994 EDITION

The rule changes to the literary code, *English Braille American Edition*, approved by the Braille Authority of North America in April 1980, July 1987 and October 1991, previously issued as addenda, have been incorporated into this edition.

The 1980 changes were made to facilitate automatic input and processing by the computer. The 1987 and 1991 changes reflect the move towards eliminating differences between *English Braille American Edition* and *British Braille—A Restatement of Standard English Braille*, and the rules followed by other countries using variants of these two English braille codes.

The rule changes of 1987 and 1991 came about as a result of two international conferences on English braille, sponsored by the Braille Authority of North America and the Braille Authority of the United Kingdom, held in Washington, D.C. in 1982 and in London, U.K. in 1988. Resolution 14, adopted at the 1982 International Conference and approved by BANA, states that "The division of words be regarded as a matter of formatting on which each braille-producing agency will formulate its own policy in accordance with a standard dictionary." This policy allows braille-producing agencies the necessary flexibility in applying Rule I §5.a. with regard to word division.

Clarifications, revisions to examples and minor changes in the wording have been made to the rules and known misprints have been corrected. Where a salient point was conveyed previously only by example, that point has now been incorporated into the wording of the rule. Any format amendments have been made to reflect current practice. Where a provision has been deleted, a reference to the appropriate official BANA publication has been given. The section numbers of changes and wording clarifications are listed beginning on page x for your convenience.

When *English Braille—American Edition—1959* was published, the *Code of Braille Textbook Formats and Techniques* was not in existence. In this edition, references to the textbook format code have been added where it would be preferable to follow the rules of the *Code of Braille Textbook Formats and Techniques*, most recent edition.

The entire section on tables previously in the appendix has been deleted in anticipation of the BANA approved standard format for tables. If this new document is not available, please refer to Appendix A, section 5 of *English Braille—American Edition—1959*.

Jacque White, a volunteer braille transcriber for The Canadian National Institute for the Blind, is acknowledged for her work in producing the print and braille editions.

There are some changes in the format used in this printing. All rules begin on right-hand pages. Each unit and rule is paginated so that each is free-standing in order to facilitate updating by reprinting only those pages affected. All examples in the rules and appendices have been presented in simulated braille, therefore the method used previously to indicate contractions in print words has been omitted except in the list of Typical and Problem Words.

The Braille Authority of North America was formed in 1976 to succeed the AAWB-AEVH Braille Authority.

## FOREWORD TO THE 1994 EDITION

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The BANA Literary Technical Committee was formed in 1978. Its members have worked diligently to write the rule changes, and since 1992 to produce this new edition for easier reference. The Committee is receptive to suggestions about the code and the format of this edition. Please direct your comments to the Chairman of BANA, c/o Suite 1100, 1010 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA.

### BANA LITERARY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

**K. Elaine Behnke (1981-1983)**  
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**Jo Churcher (1987-1989)**  
**Jill Cooter (1981- )**  
**Maxine B. Dorf (1979-1989)**  
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**Martha Pamperin (1990- )**  
**Constance Risjord (1993- )**  
**Norma Schecter (1980- )**  
**Joseph Sullivan (1980- )**  
**John Wilkinson (1988- )**



## FOREWORD TO THE 2002 REVISION

The rule changes to the literary code, *English Braille American Edition 1994*, approved by the Braille Authority of North America in November 1995, April 1998 and November 2002 have been incorporated into this revision.

The 1995 changes to Rule VII clarify how fractions, mixed numbers and decimal numbers connected by a hyphen or dash are to be written. The 1998 addition of section 27.g to Rule VI provides for the brailleing of electronic addresses and file names according to the rules of the *Computer Braille Code 2000* while a new section of Appendix C gives a summary of the pertinent rules and symbols.

The 2002 changes to section 31.b of Rule VIII provide a symbol for the euro. In March 2002, BANA resolved that the terms “Grade 1 Braille” and “Grade 2 Braille” would no longer be used in its publications and the terms “Uncontracted Braille” and “Contracted Braille” would be used instead. This revision shows this change in Definition of Braille and in Appendix C.

Since the 1994 edition was published, the *Code of Braille Textbook Formats and Techniques 1977* was revised and published under the new title *Braille Formats: Principles of Print to Braille Transcription 1997*. This publication now includes formats for tabular material. References to this publication in EBAE have been updated to reflect these changes.

The section numbers of substantive changes are listed on page xi for your convenience.

The BANA Literary Technical Committee welcomes suggestions about the code and its format. Please direct your comments to the Chairman of BANA, [www.brailleauthority.org/chairperson.html](http://www.brailleauthority.org/chairperson.html).

### BANA LITERARY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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**CHANGES TO  
ENGLISH BRAILLE AMERICAN EDITION 1994  
AS OF NOVEMBER, 2002**

<b><u>Rule</u></b>	<b><u>Section</u></b>
<b>VI</b>	<b><i>27.g. new</i></b>
<b>VII</b>	<b><i>28.c.(2) new</i></b> <b><i>28.d.(2) new</i></b> <b><i>28.f.(2) new</i></b>
<b>VIII</b>	<b><i>31.b. addition</i></b> <b><i>31.b.(1) change and addition</i></b> <b><i>31.b.(2) change and addition</i></b>
<b><u>App.</u></b>	<b><u>Section</u></b>
<b>A</b>	<b><i>5. change</i></b>
<b>C</b>	<b><i>3. new</i></b>

